

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated May 4, 2007, claim 22-41 have been canceled and new claims 42-61 have been added. Claims 1-21 were previously cancelled. Claims 42-61 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claim 29 is allowable is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claim 41 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murase et al. (USPN 5,178,447).

The Examiner contends that the edge light type backlight unit of Murase et al. meets the terms of the claims. The backlight unit of the present application is of the direct type, which is different from that of Murase et al.

To expedite prosecution, claims 22-41 have been canceled and new claims 42-61 have been submitted. New independent claim 42 recites:

A backlight unit, comprising:
a plurality of straight tube fluorescent lamps arranged substantially parallel to one another in the longitudinal direction of the fluorescent lamps; and
driving means arranged on one-end sides of the plural fluorescent lamps for driving the plural of fluorescent lamps by applying a high voltage to one-end terminals of the plural fluorescent lamps, wherein
brightness compensation means are provided for compensating for uneven brightness in the longitudinal direction of the plural fluorescent lamps by decreasing the brightness of the fluorescent lamps on one end side or increasing the brightness of the fluorescent lamps

on the other end side or controlling brightness in combination from the both end sides.

Each of claims 43-61 directly or indirectly depends from or refers to independent claim 42

Anticipation, under 35 U.S.C. § 102, requires that each element of the claim in issue be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Each element of new independent claim 42 is not disclosed in Murase et al., either expressly described or under principles of inherency. Consequently, new independent claims 42 is patentable over Murase et al., as are claims 43-61. Therefore, the allowance of new claims 42-61 is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Terrell C. Birch

Registration No.: 19,382

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

Attorney for Applicant